



Introduced Version

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## HOUSE RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_

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*Introduced by: Smith V*

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A HOUSE RESOLUTION recognizing Young Black Males Legislative Day on February 29, 2016.

*Whereas, March 31, 2015, marked the first annual Young Black Males Legislative Day when 250 students from around the state gathered at the Statehouse to show that they can have a voice in their government and to show the Indiana General Assembly that Young Black Lives Matter;*

*Whereas, Black males are six times more likely to be incarcerated than their white male counterparts. Blacks made up 9.5 percent of the population in Indiana, but 33 percent of the inmates in the Indiana Department of Correction, in 2015. African-American males comprise over 75 percent of the defendants in Indianapolis;*

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*Whereas, Indiana's percentage of black male students who experience out-of-school suspensions was 27 percent in 2015, and was tied for the second highest percentage among all states. In Marion County, the number of out-of-school suspensions represented more than 60 percent of the student population at various schools. "Attendance" was the fifth most common reason for students being suspended. The high school graduation rate for African-American males is 38 percent, while the graduation rate for white males is 70 percent;*

*Whereas, Young African-American males are predominantly caught in a cycle of poverty and low expectations, which needs to be recognized. Rectifying this cycle must be prioritized at all levels of government. We must invest in the future of these young men. It is time to make it clear that Black Male Lives Matter; and*

*Whereas, Young black males are concerned about their plight and organize this day to highlight the issue they face: Therefore,*

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the  
General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1       SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives does hereby
- 2       mark Young Black Males Legislative Day on February 29, 2016.

